

election on a statewide basis, a statewide election, by my recollection, costs roughly \$200,000 and that's \$100,000 apiece per citizen who showed up at the public hearing and that's \$100,000 just for John showing up. Lastly, I want to point out that we are in the middle of a stream, as Abraham Lincoln once cautioned the American people, and it's not the appropriate time to change the rules of the game. I do not deny that Senator DeCamp has brought us an issue of some interest. However, right now it is of academic interest. It is not of interest to any definable group of people that I know of or of the very political parties that Senator DeCamp seeks to serve by this fashion. I don't deny that the bill shouldn't be introduced and offered to a public hearing and a chance given to the population to react to it, but on LB 178 there was John and a professor and that's a \$200,000 election and I just don't think that's a proportionate share of public demand. I could be wrong. I guess we'll find out this morning, but I think there's perhaps another season that would be more appropriate for the consideration of this idea. I don't deny that the idea isn't one of concern, but I guess I'd be remiss in thinking that the floor of the Legislature would be taking this up in a timely fashion, given the history of public outcry on LB 178.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Abboud. May we have order in the Chamber, please.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator DeCamp's motion to place LB 178 on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. I serve on the Government Committee and I was at the hearing when this bill was discussed. It's an interesting idea by Senator DeCamp and a few other states, from what Senator DeCamp told us in the committee, have a runoff system and it might be something that the Legislature should consider in the future. But at this particular time when we're in the heat of an election year, I don't think this is the time to be considering it. I suppose if the committee had felt it was a worthy bill last year, we might have voted it out, but we just didn't see any groundswell of support or need for a runoff election. It will cost additional dollars to have this additional election for the people of the State of Nebraska and we just haven't seen any significant reason why we should have the runoff election. If there are problems that are going to occur in this coming election because of